



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Headquarters

419 Decatur Street New
Orleans, LA 70130

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.

504-589-3882 phone
504-589-3864 fax

Chalmette Battlefield Task Force Minutes

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting August 18, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.
Location: St. Bernard Government Complex
Chambers Meeting Room
8245 W. Judge Perez Drive
Chalmette, Louisiana 70043

Task Force Members Present:

Mr. Eric Cager
Capt. Bonnie Pepper Cook
Mrs. George W. Davis
Mr. Anthony Fernandez, Jr.
Mr. Alvin W. Guillot
Mr. Drew Heaphy, CPA
Mrs. Elizabeth McDougall, Chairperson
Ms. Faith Moran
Mr. Paul V. Perez, CFP
Col. John F. Pugh, Jr.
Ms. Geraldine Smith
Mr. Tim Bemisderfer, Federal Designated Officer for Regional Director
Southeast Regional Office

Task Force Members Absent:

Mr. Michael Varnado

The final meeting of the Chalmette Battlefield Task Force Commission was called to order by Ms. Elizabeth McDougall. She expressed her thanks to all the committee members for their time and dedicated hard work over the last two years. She also thanked Tim Bemisderfer, the Federal Designated Officer for all the time and efforts he has provide to the Task Force as mediator.

Ms. McDougall requested a motion to approve the 6/16/04 minutes. Col. Pugh motioned to accept the minutes and F. Moran seconded it. The motion was carried by voice vote. It was noted that there was no old business on the agenda.

Ms. McDougall requested a motion to approve the final report as submitted by the majority of the Task Force members present. Motion was made by R. Gulliot and seconded by Col. Pugh. The motion was carried by voice vote with no opposing votes. Ms. McDougall requested if any task force members wish to place a minority opinion in the final report; they needed to delivered it to the chairperson, Ms. McDougall at this time. Ms. McDougall stated for the record that there were no minority opinions presented to her for attachment to the final report. Ms. McDougall requested a motion for the committee to forward the final report to the National Park Service Southeastern Regional Director for her consideration. The motion was made by B. Gulliot and seconded by Ms. Davis. Tim Bemisderfer accepted the final report and will forward it with a copy of the park's action plan to the Regional Director.

Ms. McDougall requested a motion to adjourn the meeting, but before the motion was made requested if any task force member would like to make a statement to the committee.

Supt. G. Smith expressed her thanks to each member of the Task Force on behalf of the staff of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve for the time and efforts the committee members provided to the work of the commission. She stated that the park has gained new insights through this task force and hoped that there would be an continued on-going effort and participation with the park in the future of the task force members. An invitation for the task force members was extended to visit the park's Headquarters /Visitor Center at 419 Decatur Street to share any future opinions or concerns.

In response to a question as to present NPS planning for the 200th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of New Orleans, the Superintendent gave a short review of the present NPS discussions for the planning for the anniversary of the War of 1812. However at this time the Battle of New Orleans was not included in the planing due to the fact that the battle occurred after the formal date ending of the War of 1812. However she plans to be involved in on-going conversations to have Chalmette Battlefield and the Battle of New Orleans included in a commission for the bicentennial anniversary celebration. If possible it may have to be a congressional commission and that it may have to be at the request the local Chalmette community through the congressional delegation.

Ms. McDougall stated that participation on the task force has enabled the members to have an open dialogue between the NPS and the Chalmette community. She hopes that this will continue and would like the members to stay informed and thus be provided opportunities to support park activities. She stated that the members and the Chalmette community do consider the battlefield as "...our park, our place in our community and want to support it." The Superintendent added that Bill Hyland, Parish Historian, and former Councilman Bayham did attend the activities at George Washington Park in Indiana as part of the invitation from Dale Phillips. There they were able to observe some of the event activities over Memorial Day. They hope to include some of the ideas they observed into the annual Battle of New Orleans parish-sponsored re-enactment here in Chalmette.

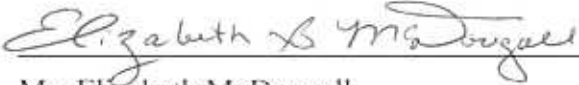
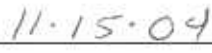


Tim Bemisderfer thanked the administrative assistant, Dee Landry for her efforts in support of the work of the committee. Tim then presented each member with a plaque from the Southeast Regional Director in acknowledgement of his or her service to the committee and to the National

Park Service. Each committee member was also presented a poster of an original painting of the Fanzenville community. Tim Bemisderfer acknowledged Ms. Elizabeth McDougall for her contributions and leadership as the committee chairperson for the last 18 months.

Photos were taken and the committee was invited to enjoy refreshments provide by the Chalmette Parish Tourist Commission by Ms. Elizabeth McDougall.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consensus of the members present at 4:15 pm.

###

	
Ms. Elizabeth McDougall	Date
Chairperson	
	
Tim Bemisderfer	Date
Federal Designated Officer	
